

Brown (OH)	Johnson (SD)	Nelson (FL)
Burr	Johnson (WI)	Paul
Cantwell	Kerry	Pryor
Cardin	Klobuchar	Reed
Carper	Kohl	Reid
Casey	Landrieu	Rockefeller
Coburn	Lautenberg	Sanders
Conrad	Leahy	Schumer
Coons	Lee	Shaheen
Corker	Levin	Stabenow
DeMint	Lieberman	Tester
Durbin	Manchin	Toomey
Feinstein	McCaskill	Udall (CO)
Franken	Menendez	Udall (NM)
Gillibrand	Merkley	Warner
Hagan	Mikulski	Webb
Harkin	Moran	Whitehouse
Inhofe	Murray	Wyden
Inouye	Nelson (NE)	

ANSWERED "PRESENT"—1

Snowe

NOT VOTING—3

Blumenthal Hutchison Kirk

The amendment was rejected.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, while the Republican alternative was definitely better than the Democrat-endorsed proposal, at the end of the day, neither option presented a long term answer to the impending rise in student loan interest rates.

In 2007, Congress passed the College Cost Reduction and Access Act, which I opposed. This legislation used a stepped reduction of interest rates for subsidized Stafford loans, from 6.8 percent to the current 3.4 percent. Also as a part of this law, these rates are scheduled to reset to the original 6.8 percent on July 1. So for five years, we have known this day was coming. A one-year extension of the current interest rate is merely a six billion dollar temporary fix. It would simply postpone finding an actual solution to the problem of college affordability. Congress has gotten too comfortable with band aid fixes: payments to physicians, the Highway bill, and flood insurance being recent examples. It is because of increased government intervention that we continually find ourselves in this predicament. With every government takeover, whether it is education, health care, or the EPA, the result is less competition, less consumer choice, and less innovation.

Mr. President, I understand the importance and value of a good education. My wife was a teacher, and my two daughters became teachers as well, one even at a university. I also commend the efforts of all students who strive to achieve a higher education and improve their lives, especially those struggling through financial burdens. However, we owe it to these students to address the problem, not just put a band aid on it.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

EXTENSION OF THE NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM

Mr. REID. Mr. President, as we have noted on the floor many times in the last few days, the Flood Insurance Program covers almost 6 million people. It was set to expire next week. If it were to expire, new housing construction

would stall—in fact, it may come to a halt—real estate transactions would come to a screaming halt, and taxpayers would be on the hook for future disasters. We have no choice. We have to get this done.

I appreciate the work of Chairman JOHNSON, Ranking Member SHELBY, the chairman of the subcommittee, Senator TESTER, and Ranking Member VITTER. I also appreciate the work that was put into this effort by Senator COBURN, who worked closely with Senator SCHUMER, and we were able to get this extension done. I am grateful for everyone's help. It was team work that got us where we are.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to Calendar No. 407, H.R. 5740, flood insurance extension; that a Johnson of South Dakota substitute amendment, which is at the desk, be agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be read a third time and passed; and that motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate. And if anyone has anything to say about this, they can put it in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 2154) was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute)

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. EXTENSION OF THE NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM.

(a) PROGRAM EXTENSION.—Section 1319 of the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 4026) is amended by striking “the earlier of the date of the enactment into law of an Act that specifically amends the date specified in this section or May 31, 2012” and inserting “July 31, 2012”.

(b) FINANCING.—Section 1309(a) of the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 4016(a)) is amended by striking “the earlier of the date of the enactment into law of an Act that specifically amends the date specified in this section or May 31, 2012” and inserting “July 31, 2012”.

SEC. 2. EXCLUSION OF VACATION HOMES AND SECOND HOMES FROM RECEIVING SUBSIDIZED PREMIUM RATES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1307(a)(2) of the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 4014(a)(2)) is amended by inserting before “; and” the following: “, except that the Administrator shall not estimate rates under this paragraph for any residential property which is not the primary residence of an individual”.

(b) PHASE-OUT OF SUBSIDIZED PREMIUM RATES.—Section 1308(e) of the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 4015(e)) is amended—

(1) by striking “under this title for any properties within any single” and inserting the following: “under this title for—

“(1) any properties within any single”; and

(2) by striking the period at the end and inserting the following: “; and

“(2) any residential properties which are not the primary residence of an individual, as described in section 1307(a)(2), shall be increased by 25 percent each year, until the average risk premium rate for such properties is equal to the average of the risk premium rates for properties described under paragraph (1).”.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The first increase in chargeable risk premium rates for residen-

tial properties which are not the primary residence of an individual under section 1308(e)(2) of the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968, as added by this Act, shall take effect on July 1, 2012, and the chargeable risk premium rates for such properties shall be increased by 25 percent each year thereafter, as provided in such section 1308(e)(2).

SEC. 3. COMPLIANCE WITH PAYGO.

The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010, shall be determined by reference to the latest statement titled “Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation” for this Act, submitted for printing in the Congressional Record by the Chairman of the Senate Budget Committee, provided that such statement has been submitted prior to the vote on passage.

The amendment was ordered to be engrossed and the bill to be read a third time.

The bill (H.R. 5740), as amended, was read the third time was passed.

STOP THE STUDENT LOAN INTEREST RATE HIKE ACT OF 2012—Continued

Mr. REID. Mr. President, this will be the last vote coming up. No speeches. We will start voting.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill for the third time.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading and was read the third time.

Mr. CORKER. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Ms. SNOWE (when her name was called). Present.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI), the Senator from Texas (Mrs. HUTCHISON), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK), and the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KYL).

The result was announced—yeas 51, nays 43, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 113 Leg.]

YEAS—51

Akaka	Hagan	Murray
Baucus	Harkin	Nelson (NE)
Begich	Inouye	Nelson (FL)
Bennet	Johnson (SD)	Pryor
Bingaman	Kerry	Reed
Boxer	Klobuchar	Reid
Brown (OH)	Kohl	Rockefeller
Cantwell	Landrieu	Sanders
Cardin	Lautenberg	Schumer
Carper	Leahy	Shaheen
Casey	Levin	Stabenow
Conrad	Lieberman	Tester
Coons	Manchin	Udall (CO)
Durbin	McCaskill	Udall (NM)
Feinstein	Menendez	Warner
Franken	Merkley	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Mikulski	Wyden

NAYS—43

Alexander	DeMint	Murkowski
Ayotte	Graham	Paul
Barrasso	Grassley	Portman
Blunt	Hatch	Risch
Boozman	Heller	Roberts
Brown (MA)	Hoeven	Rubio
Burr	Inhofe	Sessions
Chambliss	Isakson	Shelby
Coats	Johanns	Thune
Coburn	Johnson (WI)	Toomey
Cochran	Lee	Vitter
Collins	Lugar	Webb
Corker	McCain	Wicker
Cornyn	McConnell	
Crapo	Moran	

ANSWERED "PRESENT"—1

Snowe

NOT VOTING—5

Blumenthal	Hutchison	Kyl
Enzi	Kirk	

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MANCHIN). Under the previous order requiring 60 votes for passage of the bill, the bill is rejected.

Mr. REID. I move to reconsider the vote and I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

PAYCHECK FAIRNESS ACT— MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I now move to proceed to calendar No. 410, S. 3220.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 410, S. 3220, a bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide more effective remedies to victims of discrimination in the payment of wages on the basis of sex, and for other purposes.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have a cloture motion at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 410, S. 3220, a bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide more effective remedies to victims of discrimination in the payment of wages on the basis of sex, and for other purposes.

Barbara A. Mikulski, Harry Reid, Maria Cantwell, Patty Murray, Frank R. Lautenberg, Jeff Bingaman, Sheldon Whitehouse, John F. Kerry, Kent Conrad, Jeanne Shaheen, Bernard Sanders, Tom Udall, Amy Klobuchar, Carl Levin, Mark R. Warner, Mark L. Pryor, Jack Reed, Kirsten E. Gillibrand.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum under rule XXII be waived, and the vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to S. 3220 occur at 2:15 p.m., on Tuesday, June 5.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, we are going to arrange a vote Monday night

on one of the nominees who is trying to become a judge.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I want to take a few moments this afternoon to do something that has become a bit of a ritual with me; that is, to try to take some time each week to speak about the damage we are doing to our atmosphere, to our oceans, and to our climate with the relentless carbon pollution we are discharging.

As each week goes by, the information continues to pile up about the harms we are causing.

A recent story says rising temperatures could eliminate two-thirds of California's snowpack by the end of this century.

The snowpack that helps provide water for California cities and farms could shrink by two-thirds because of climate change, according to new research submitted to the state's Energy Commission.

Higher temperatures appear likely to wipe out a third of the Golden State's snowpack by 2050 and two-thirds by the end of the century, the Scripps Institution of Oceanography found.

Science Daily reports:

Black carbon aerosols and tropospheric ozone, both humanmade pollutants emitted predominantly in the Northern Hemisphere's low- to mid-latitudes—

That is basically us—

are most likely pushing the boundary of the tropics further poleward—

North and south—

in that hemisphere, new research by a team of scientists shows. . . .

The lead climatologist, Robert J. Allen, says:

If the tropics are moving poleward, then the subtropics will become even drier. If a poleward displacement of the mid-latitude storm tracks also occurs, this will shift mid-latitude precipitation poleward, impacting regional agriculture, economy, and society.

The American people have not been taken in by the campaign of propaganda that primarily the polluting industries have put out. There have been significant reports in the past on ExxonMobil's funding of essentially phony research agencies so they can offer their opinions on this issue without having it be ExxonMobil's opinion. They either create or take over or subsidize organizations that then put out the message, and they sound legit—Heartland Institute, Annapolis Center.

But the American people are not fooled, it turns out. Seventy-one percent of visitors who have come to the Nation's wildlife refuges say they were personally concerned about climate change's effects on fish, wildlife, and habitat. Seventy-four percent said that working to limit climate's effects on fish, wildlife, and habitat would benefit future generations. And 69 percent said doing so would improve the quality of life today.

One of the original researchers on climate change—I quoted an article earlier, describing how over time the facts

have proven his initial predictions accurate—is James Hansen. He wrote an article a few weeks ago in the New York Times headlined "Game Over for the Climate." It begins with these two sentences:

Global warming isn't a prediction. It is happening.

Clearly we see that in measurements and observations around the planet. But what happens if it keeps going? He is talking about the tar sands up in Canada, and he says this:

If we were to fully exploit this new oil source, and continue to burn our conventional oil, gas, and coal supplies, concentrations of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere would eventually reach levels higher than in the Pliocene era, more than 2.5 million years ago, when sea level was at least 50 feet higher than it is now. That level of heat-trapping gases would assure that the disintegration of the ice sheets would accelerate out of control. Sea levels would rise and destroy coastal cities. Global temperatures would become intolerable. Twenty to 50 percent of the planet's species would be driven to extinction. Civilization would be at risk.

That is clearly, as he admits, a long-term outlook, but it is an outlook that deserves our attention, because when he has given us long-term outlooks in the past, as time has marched forward they have been proven over and over to be true.

It is convenient around here to pretend that none of this is happening. And it would be nice if we could wait until the disaster, the wolf was at the door and then do something about it, but there is a strong likelihood that by the time we take action, it will be too late.

In September of 1940, there was an American living in the Philippines with his wife and son. He looked at what was happening over in Europe. He looked at the threat to Britain. He cabled back to the United States his recommendation. He said:

The history of failure in war can almost be summed up in two words—"too late." Too late in comprehending the deadly purpose of a potential enemy. Too late in realizing the mortal danger. Too late in preparedness. Too late in uniting all possible forces for resistance. Too late in standing by one's friends.

The author of that cable was GEN George MacArthur. He continued later on in the cable:

The greatest strategic mistake in all history will be made if America fails to recognize the vital moment, if she permits again the writing of that fatal epitaph "too late."

Of course, General MacArthur was talking about what was becoming World War II, he was not talking about climate change. Yet his warning rings very true against this threat as well. "Too late" will be the epitaph if we do not prepare now. And I very much regret that we are in a situation in which we do not seem able as a body to take this threat seriously. The House shows no indication whatsoever of taking this threat seriously. Even the White House has dialed back its expressions of interest and concern on this issue, probably for the practical reason that the Republican-controlled House does not